



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

February 25, 2000

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Enclosed is proposed legislation that would authorize the conveyance of the western quarter of the island of Vieques, in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to local ownership. This proposal is in implementation of the President's Directive dated January 31, 2000, entitled "Resolution Regarding Use of Range Facilities on Vieques, Puerto Rico."

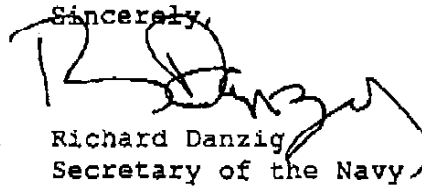
The legislation would require the Department of the Navy, by December 31, 2000, to transfer to the Government of Puerto Rico the land on the western end of the island now constituting the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment. One hundred acres would be retained by the Navy for the operation of the Relocatable Over the Horizon Radar (ROTHR) and Mount Pirata telecommunications sites. The requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 will be met.

The legislation also includes provisions that would identify management mechanisms and funding authorizations necessary for the management of the conservation zones and surrounding environmentally sensitive areas on the lands to be conveyed that would be consistent with the co-management agreement of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust, and the Department of the Interior.

There has been relatively little use of this property in recent years and it is no longer needed for Federal purposes. The Governments of Vieques and Puerto Rico as a whole have requested this transfer and the Governor, Legislative Assembly, and Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico and the Mayor of Vieques have supported the President's directive in this regard.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of Congress, and that its enactment is in accord with the program of the President. Prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Danzig", is written over the typed name and title.

Richard Danzig
Secretary of the Navy

Enclosure:
As stated



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

February 25, 2000

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
President of the Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is proposed legislation that would authorize the conveyance of the western quarter of the island of Vieques, in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to local ownership. This proposal is in implementation of the President's Directive dated January 31, 2000, entitled "Resolution Regarding Use of Range Facilities on Vieques, Puerto Rico."

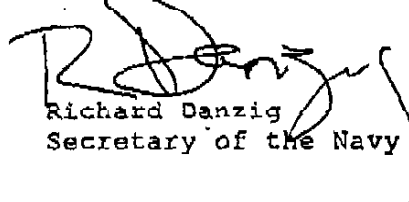
The legislation would require the Department of the Navy, by December 31, 2000, to transfer to the Government of Puerto Rico the land on the western end of the island now constituting the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment. One hundred acres would be retained by the Navy for the operation of the Relocatable Over the Horizon Radar (ROTHR) and Mount Pirata telecommunications sites. The requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 will be met.

The legislation also includes provisions that would identify management mechanisms and funding authorizations necessary for the management of the conservation zones and surrounding environmentally sensitive areas on the lands to be conveyed that would be consistent with the co-management agreement of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust, and the Department of the Interior.

There has been relatively little use of this property in recent years and it is no longer needed for Federal purposes. The Governments of Vieques and Puerto Rico as a whole have requested this transfer and the Governor, Legislative Assembly, and Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico and the Mayor of Vieques have supported the President's directive in this regard.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of Congress, and that its enactment is in accord with the program of the President. Prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard Danzig
Secretary of the Navy

Enclosure:
As stated